

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 07109 081157Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /099 W  
-----015779 090421Z /75

R 081040Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1257  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7109

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD AND COMIPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, LA, TH, PINS, MARR, SREF  
SUBJECT: LAO SECSTATE ECHOES KAYSONE ON U.S. BASES IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 6970

1. APPARENTLY TAKING A CURE FROM LAO PM KAYSONE, LAOTIAN SECRETARY OF STATE NOUPHAN SIDPHASAY WAS LESS SANGUINE ON LAO-THAI RELATIONS TO REPORTERS IN BANGKOK MARCH 7 THAN IN EARLIER INTERVIEW MARCH 5 WHEN HE CROSSED INTO THAILAND TO ATTEND THE ESCAP MEETING NOW UNDERWAY IN BANGKOK (REFTEL). LIKE KAYSONE, NOUPHAN REPORTEDLY ALSO CHARGED IN BANGKOK THAT THAILAND HAD PERMITTED THE U.S. TO REACTIVATE MILITARY BASES IN THAILAND. WHEN PRESSED BY REPORTERS AS TO WHICH BASES HAD BEEN REACTIVATED, NOUPHAN AT FIRST SAID HE HAD NO DETAILS, BUT FINALLY SAID THAT U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAVE INCREASINGLY BEEN LANDING AT UTAPAO AIRBASE. HE BRUSHED OFF A U.S. EMBASSY BANGKOK DENIAL BY SAYING THE DENIAL WAS A "REGRETTABLE  
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THING". NOUPHAN REITERATED THAT LAO-THAI RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED SINCE THE KRIANGSAK GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE, BUT PACE HAS NOT BEEN FAST ENOUGH, HE SAID. HE CALLED FOR CURTAILMENT OF ARMED ATTACKS ON LAOTIAN CITIZENS TRAVELLING THE MEKONG RIVER BETWEEN THAILAND AND LAOS AND CALLED FOR A "ZONE OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP" IN THE BORDERLINE REGION. HE ALSO CALLED FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL UNNECESSARY RESTRICTIONS

ON TRANSIT TO GOODS THROUGH THAILAND TO LAOS.

2. IN ANOTHER LAO-THAI DEVELOPMENT, AFTERNOON PRESS MARCH 8 REPORTED THAT THE 27-YEAR OLD NEPHEW OF ROYAL LAO GENERAL VANG PAO MARCH 7 LED A GROUP OF 220 HMONG TRIBESPEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES ACROSS THE MEKONG INTO THAILAND. THE NEWPHEW, LT. CHUE YANG, CLAIMED TO HAVE STUDIED AT FORT KNOX. THE GROUP SAID THEY ESCAPED FROM THEIR STRONGHOLD IN MUONG OW, XIENG KHUANG PROVINCE, LAOS, AFTER THEIR POSITIONS WERE SMASHED BY LAOTIAN MIGS, USING NAPALM. SUPPORTED BY TANKS AND ARTILLERY.

3. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY, NOUPHAN MODIFIED HIS PUBLIC UTTERANCES TO TALLY MORE CLOSELY WITH THOSE OF PM KAYSONE, REPORTED REFTEL. HE NEVERTHELESS TOOK A SOFTER LINE TOWARDS THAILAND. HE WENT OUT ON A LIMB REGARDING THE U.S. BASES IN THAILAND, WE ASSUME, TO HIS EMBARRASSMENT. PRESS KNOWS NO BASES HAVE BEEN REACTIVATED HERE. ONLY U.S. FLIGHTS TO UTAPAO ARE INFREQUENT DAO AND JUSMAG C-12 POLOT PROFICIENCY FLIGHTS, WHICH HAVE FLOWN THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF TIMES INTO UTAPAO IN RECENT MONTHS: THREE TIMES IN DEC; NINE TIMES IN JAN (UP BECAUSE A STANDARDIZATION TEAM VISITED THAILAND); TWO TIMES IN FEB; FOUR TIMES IN MARCH. THESE FLIGHTS, BY AN EXECUTIVE AIRCRAFT, COULD HARDLY BE CONSTRUED AS A REACTIVATION OF MILITARY BASES IN THAILAND.

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4. SPLASHING OF NAMES IN PRESS OF FAMOUS FORMER ROYAL LAO GENERALS ONCE CONNECTED WITH THE SUG, LIKE GENERAL VANG PAO, WILL PROBABLY EMBELLISH PRESS REPORTING ON THESE SUBJECTS.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY BASES  
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**Draft Date:** 08 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PBOR, PINS, MARR, SREF, LA, TH, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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